

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 GENEVA 03758 151642Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

-----151645Z 011457 /41

O 151554Z MAY 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7376

S E C R E T GENEVA 3758

NODIS

STADIS/////

FOR S/S (TARNOFF) AND NEA (TWINAM) FROM ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA, US

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM ON F-15'S, SIDEWINDERS AND MAVERICKS
FOR SAUDI ARABIA

REF: SECTO 4091

1. ON TRIP TODAY FROM TEHRAN TO GENEVA, HABIB AND I
DISCUSSED WITH THE SECRETARY THE DRAFT ACTION MEMORANDUM TRANS-
MITTED REFTEL. IN VIEW OF TIME PROBLEM, SECRETARY WANTS TO
MOVE THIS ISSUE IMMEDIATELY TO THE WHITE HOUSE AND HAS
DECIDED ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS HE WANTS TO MAKE TO THE
PRESIDENT. HE HAS ASKED THAT THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS
BE TAKEN:

A. PREPARE SUMMARY MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT BASED
ON THE DRAFT CONTAINED REFTEL, LISTING THE OPTIONS AS
DESCRIBED IN THAT DRAFT BUT CONDENSING BACKGROUND
AND CONGRESSIONAL SECTIONS AS WELL AS ELIMINATING OR
GREATLY CONDENSING LISTING OF PROS AND CONS UNDER EACH
OPTION.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 GENEVA 03758 151642Z

B. WHEN MEMORANDUM GOES FORWARD TO THE WHITE HOUSE,
MAKE TEXT OF FULL MEMORANDUM IN REFTEL AVAILABLE TO
BREZEZINSKI AS BACK-UP.

C. IN MEMORANDUM TO PRESIDENT, INDICATE THE SECRETARY'S
RECOMMENDATIONS AS FOLLOWS:

(1) ADVANCED AIRCRAFT - OPTION 3 WHICH IS LISTED AT END OF MEMORANDUM AS THE FIRST RECOMMENDATION ON AIRCRAFT.

(2) CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS - RECOMMENDATIONS A, I.E., CONSULTATION WITH CONGRESS PRIOR TO THE VISIT.

(3) MAVERICKS AND SIDEWINDERS - OPTION 3, WHICH IS LISTED AS THE FIRST RECOMMENDATION AT THE END OF THE MEMORANDUM IN REFTEL.

2. IN PREPARATION FOR CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS FOLLOWING PRESIDENTIAL DECISION, NEA, PM AND H SHOULD PREPARE DRAFT TALKING POINTS, WHICH SHOULD INCLUDE FOLLOWING THEMES:

-- IMPORTANCE OF SAUDI ARABIA TO OUR PEACE EFFORTS.

-- IMPORTANCE OF SAUDI ARABIA TO WORLD (AND OUR OWN) ENERGY REQUIREMENTS.

-- LEGITIMATE SAUDI NEED FOR MODERN DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT INCLUDING NEW GENERATION ARICRAFT TO REPLACE LIGHTNINGS IN 1980'S, NOTING IN THIS CONNECTION FACT THAT SAUDI ARABIA HAS NEVER TAKEN PART IN WARS WITH ISRAEL.

-- NEED FOR US TO RETAIN CONFIDENCE OF SAUDIS IN OUR BALANCED APPROACH TO MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES AND FACT THAT THEY WILL BE WATCHING HOW WE RESPOND TO THEIR REQUESTS IN THE SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 GENEVA 03758 151642Z

DEFENSE AREA IN LIGHT OF RECENT PUBLICITY ABOUT DECISION ON ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AND COPRODUCTION FOR ISRAEL.

3. IN DISCUSSING THIS MATTER WITH SECRETARY AND HABIB, WE RECOGNIZED THAT CONSULTATION PRIOR TO FAHD VISIT RISKS LEAKS WHICH COULD GENERATE CRITICAL PUBLIC DEBATE ABOUT THIS ISSUE WHICH WOULD MAR FAHD VISIT. SECRETARY NEVERTHELESS CONCLUDED THAT WE MUST TALK TO KEY PEOPLE ON THE HILL ABOUT WHAT WE PLAN TO SAY TO FAHD BEFORE HE ARRIVES, WHILE MAKING MAJOR EFFORT TO PRESERVE CONFIENDIALITY OF THESE CONSULTATIONS. OUR THINKING IS THAT WE SHOULD FIRST TALK PRIVATELY TO SENATOR HUMPHREY AND SEEK HIS ADVICE ABOUT HOW BEST TO PRESENT THE PROBLEM TO OTHER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. WE ASSUME WE WOULD THEN ALSO NEED TO TALK TO SENATORS CASE AND JAVITS AND TO CONGRESSMEN ZABLOCKI AND HAMILTON. WE WOULD ASK THAT THEY KEEP THESE MATTERS CONFIDENTIAL AND THAT NO STAFF MEMBERS BE PRESENT, STRESSING SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR FAHS VISIT IF THERE WERE LEAKS.

4. OUR THINKING IS THAT THESE CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE CARRIED OUT BY THE ACTING SECRETARY, DOUG BENNET AND HABIB IF HE IS BACK IN TIME FROM BAGHDAD (HE IS AIMING TO BE BACK BY WEDNESDAY OR THURSDAY MORNING AT LATEST.).

5. HOPEFULLY WE CAN HAVE WHITE HOUSE DECISION ON BOTH THE SAUDI PACKAGE AND THE PACKAGE ON NON-LETHAL ARMS FOR EGYPT, ON WHICH SECRETARY'S DECISION WAS TRANSMITTED EARLIER TODAY, SO THAT CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS CAN BE CARRIED OUT ON BOTH ISSUES SIMULTANEOUSLY.

6. FOR TARNOFF: I SUGGEST THAT YOU BRING THIS MESSAGE TO ACTING SECRETARY'S ATTENTION AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND THAT BRZEZINSKI BE ALERTED TO HOW WE PROPOSE TO PROCEED IN ADVANCE OF FORMAL TRANSMISSION OF MEMORANDUM TO WHITE HOUSE. SORENSON

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 GENEVA 03758 151642Z

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, BRIEFING MATERIALS, US CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, MISSILES, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GENEVA03758
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840083-0514
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770556/aaaabwmf.tel
Line Count: 139
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4130d593-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: 77 SECTO 4091
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2517467
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ACTION MEMORANDUM ON F-15S, SIDEWINDERS AND MAVERICKS FOR SAUDI ARABIA
TAGS: MASS, PFOR, US, SA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4130d593-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009